

*Money will help fund new research projects in medical treatment and disease prevention*

**Washington DC** - Georgia Congressman John Barrow (12<sup>th</sup> District) announced today that the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) in Augusta has been awarded three federal grants from the National Institutes of Health, totaling \$2,086,000. The grants will help fund specific medical research and disease prevention projects currently being conducted at MCG by Dr. Vadivel Ganapathy, Dr. Yanbin Dong, and Dr. Joseph Cannon.

"These research projects have the potential to affect the health care, and quality of life, for millions of people - and it's happening here in Augusta," Barrow said. "It all starts with discovery, and the scientific breakthroughs that could be achieved with this research have the potential to improve treatments and disease prevention for several wide-spread health problems."

The MCG doctors and specified research projects selected to receive the NIH grants include:

- **Dr. Vadivel Ganapathy**, biochemist and chair of the Medical College of Georgia's Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, has been awarded \$286,000 over two

years to fund his groundbreaking work with pain receptors in the brain. He will be studying a transport system in brain cells which he discovered, and which hasn't previously been described in scientific literature.

- **Dr. Yanbin Dong**, molecular geneticist and cardiologist at the Medical College of Georgia's Georgia Prevention Institute, is working to identify genetic variations that have been linked to hypertension. Dr. Dong and his collaborators have received a four-year, \$1.43 million grant from the National Heart, Blood, and Lung Institute.

- **Dr. Joseph G. Cannon**, associate dean for research in MCG's School of Allied Health Sciences, will receive \$370,000 for two years of research on aging - focusing specifically on whether high levels of one hormone cause the same problems as low levels of another during menopause. His research has the potential to lead to new remedies and preventions of cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis brought on by menopause.

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